

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/016,541

Confirmation No.: 7898

Filed: 11 December 2001

For: TACK-ON-PRESSURE FILMS FOR TEMPORARY SURFACE PROTECTION AND SURFACE MODIFICATION

Page 4 of 18

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (Original) A method for temporary surface protection or surface modification, comprising:

providing a sheet material having an activatable adhering side and an opposing utility side, wherein:

the sheet material has a base portion having physical characteristics of having been non- elastically stretched in at least one dimension by a stretch ratio of at least 1:1.05;

the activatable adhering side comprises a plurality of predetermined surface elements separated from each other leaving openings between adjacent surface elements, separation being caused by stretching of the sheet material; and

the sheet material further has an adhesive layer at least partially exposed to the activatable adhering side through the openings between surface elements such that after activation by a user, the activatable adhering side exhibits an adhesion peel force greater than an adhesion peel force exhibited prior to activation by a user;

applying the activatable adhering side of the sheet material on a target surface; and

activating the activatable adhering side to provide temporary surface protection or surface modification.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/016,541

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Filed: 11 December 2001

For: TACK-ON-PRESSURE FILMS FOR TEMPORARY SURFACE PROTECTION AND SURFACE MODIFICATION

Page 5 of 18

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the activatable adhering side is activated by applying a finger or hand pressure.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet material is adapted to be easily repositionable after being applied to the target surface and easily removable after being activated.
4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the sheet material is impermeable to fluids through the utility side.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the sheet material is absorbent to fluids.
6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet material is highly flexible such that it can be easily conformed to the target surface.
7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the utility side of the sheet material has a higher coefficient of friction than the target surface when contacted by an object such as a tool or human skin.
8. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the utility side of the sheet material has an optical characteristic different from that of the target surface.
9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet material is provided in a roll form.
10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet material is provided in pre-cut discrete sheets.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/016,541

Confirmation No.: 7898

Filed: 11 December 2001

For: TACK-ON-PRESSURE FILMS FOR TEMPORARY SURFACE PROTECTION AND SURFACE MODIFICATION**Page 6 of 18**

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the utility side of the sheet material is aseptic for providing infection protection.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the utility side of the sheet material bears an antibacterial agent.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet material is transparent to visible light.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet material is translucent to visible light.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet material is at least partially impermeable to light of wavelengths in a specific range.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet material is at least partially opaque to visible light.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet material is adapted to provide radiation protection.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the utility side bears printed indicia.

19. **(Withdrawn)** A method for temporary surface protection or surface modification in a hospital or dental office, the method comprising:

providing a multilayer sheet material having an activatable adhering side and an

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/016,541

Confirmation No.: 7898

Filed: 11 December 2001

For: TACK-ON-PRESSURE FILMS FOR TEMPORARY SURFACE PROTECTION AND SURFACE MODIFICATION

Page 7 of 18

opposing utility side, wherein after activation by a user, the activatable adhering side exhibits an adhesion peel force greater than an adhesion peel force exhibited prior to activation by a user, such that the sheet material is easily repositionable before being activated and still removable by peeling after being activated;

applying the activatable adhering side of the sheet material on a target surface commonly found in a hospital or a dental office, wherein the utility side of the sheet material provides a desired surface contact property not available on the target surface;

activating the activatable adhering side; and

removing the sheet material from the target surface after the desired surface contact property is no longer required.

20. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the activating step comprises: activating a desired portion or portions of the activatable adhering side only.

21. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the target surface defines a first target surface, the method further comprising:

after removing the sheet material from the first target surface, applying the activatable adhering side of the sheet material on a second target surface commonly found in a hospital or a dental office.

22. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the target surface is a smooth surface.

23. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the target surface is on a patient's body and the sheet material is adapted to be used as a medical drape.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/016,541

Confirmation No.: 7898

Filed: 11 December 2001

For: TACK-ON-PRESSURE FILMS FOR TEMPORARY SURFACE PROTECTION AND SURFACE MODIFICATION

Page 8 of 18

24. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the desired surface contact property is impermeability to fluids through the utility side.

25. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the desired surface contact property is a high absorbency to fluids.

26. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the desired surface contact property is a high coefficient of friction when contacted by an object.

27. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the desired surface contact property is a color.

28. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the desired surface contact property is partial or total radiation impermeability.

29. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the sheet material is at least partially transparent to visible light.

30. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the sheet material is at least partially translucent to visible light.

31. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the sheet material is at least partially impermeable to light having a wavelength suitable to cause polymerization of a light activated dental material.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/016,541

Confirmation No.: 7898

Filed: 11 December 2001

For: TACK-ON-PRESSURE FILMS FOR TEMPORARY SURFACE PROTECTION AND SURFACE
MODIFICATION

Page 9 of 18

32. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the sheet material is opaque to visible light.

33. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the utility side bears printed indicia.

34. **(Withdrawn)** A bib wearable by a user, comprising:

an activatable adhering side, wherein after activation by a user, the activatable adhering side exhibits an adhesion peel force greater than an adhesion peel force exhibited prior to activation by a user, such that the bib does not dislodge itself from the user after being activated on the user but is easily removable by peeling even after being activated; and

an opposing utility side, through which side the bib is impermeable to fluids.

35. **(Withdrawn)** The bib of claim 34 adapted for use by a patient in a hospital or a dental office.

36. **(Withdrawn)** The bib of claim 35, wherein at least a part of the utility side is a material absorbent to fluids such that a dental practitioner can dispose waste or wipe dental instruments thereon.

37. **(Withdrawn)** The bib of claim 35, wherein the utility side bears printed indicia.